

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the present amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, claims 8, 10, and 17 have been amended.

In the Office Action of April 3, 2003, claim 15 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 18, presented in the Amendment of June 23, 2003, includes all of the limitations of cancelled claim 15, its base claim, and intervening claim 14. Claim 18 thus should have been indicated as allowable, as indicated in the Office Action of April 3, 2003.

In the Office Action of August 13, 2003, claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Campbell et al. The Office Action of August 13, 2003 stated that the rejection of claim 18 was made final because Applicants amendment made necessary the new grounds of rejection. Claim 18, however, was presented in response to the indication of allowability in the previous Office Action. Therefore, the rejection should not have been made final and finality of the rejection should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, Campbell et al. does not teach or suggest the support contacting a portion of the initiator and the crimped portion of the retainer holding the support against the retainer. In Campbell et al., the crimped portion 106 is clearly spaced from the support 100. Thus, the rejection is

improper because Campbell et al. does not disclose all of the elements recited in claim 18. Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn and claim 18 should be allowed.

Claim 17 has been amended to include the features of canceled claim 11 and should therefore be allowed, as indicated in the Office Action of April 3, 2003 and referenced in the Office Action of August 13, 2003. Claim 16 is allowable, as indicated in the Office Action of August 13, 2003.

Claim 10 has been amended to patentably define over Fink, U.S. Patent No. 6,029,995. Amended claim 10 recites an inflator having a container in which inflation fluid is stored. The container has an opening through which inflation fluid flows in a given direction from the container. The inflator also comprises a retainer for retaining an initiator on the container of the inflator. The retainer comprises at least one part having a passage for directing gas flowing from the container toward an outlet of the inflator. The passage has a longitudinal axis. Gas flowing from the container passes through the passage of the retainer and passes through the outlet of the inflator in the given direction. The given direction is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the passage.

Fink fails to disclose or suggest a retainer having a passage for directing gas flowing in a given direction from a container toward an outlet of the inflator in which the gas flowing from the container passes through the passage of the retainer and passes through the outlet of the inflator in the given direction, wherein the given direction is parallel to a

longitudinal axis of the passage. In Fink, the passage 70 of end wall 24 directs gas flowing in a direction parallel to axis 47 toward an outlet through which the gas flows in a direction along axis 75, which is perpendicular to axis 47. Thus, gas flowing from the container in Fink does not pass through the passage 70 in end wall 24 and pass through an outlet of the inflator in same direction that the gas flows from the container (i.e., parallel to the longitudinal axis of the passage). Since Fink fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 10, allowance of claim 10 is respectfully requested. Claims 13 and 14 depend from claim 10 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 10.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified patent application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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